

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 AID-05 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 EB-07 /070 W

----- 053035

R 131502Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5836

INFO SECDEF ASD ISA WAHSDC

JCS WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

COMINWARCOM CHARLESTON SC

CTF 65

S E C R E T CAIRO 8025

NOFORN

EO 11652: 31 DEC 83

TAGS: MILI EG

SUBJECT: NIMBUS STREAM

1. ON 9 AUGUST PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD IN ALEXANDRIA WITH EGYPTIAN NAVAL STAFF CONCERNING DETAILS OF FORTHCOMING MINESWEEPING OPERATION. CTF-65, NAVAL ATTACHE, AND MEMBERS OF NIMBUS STREAM ADVANCED TECHNICAL TEAM PARTICIPATED.

2. IN THE COURSE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS IT BECAME CLEAR THAT EGYPTIANS WILL NOT BE SATISFIED WITH A SWEEP OPERATION CALCULATED TO PROVIDE ONLY 95 PERCENT ASSURANCE THAT AREA IS SAFE. DURING DISCUSSIONS, VADM ZIKRY, CINC A.R.E. NAVY, INDICATED THAT IN ADDITION TO ASSURING SAFE NAVIGATION, EGYPTIANS CONTEMPLATE THE EMPLACEMENT OF OIL RIGS IN THE PRESENTLY MINED AREA. ZIKRY THEREFORE FEELS THAT 95 PERCENT ASSURANCE IS INADEQUATE AND DESIRES TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FROM U.S. TO LOCATE UNEXPLODED MINES AFTER HELO SWEEPS IN A GIVEN AREA HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

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REQUIRED EQUIPMENT WOULD INCLUDE TOWED SIDE LOOKING SONARS

AND SHIPBOARD COMPONENTS THEREOF AS WELL AS PRECISION NAVIGATION SYSTEM ASHORE AND NAVIGATION RECORDER ABOARD EGYPTIAN SHIP. TRAINING OF EGYPTIAN NAVY PERSONNEL IN USE OF EQUIPMENT WOULD BE NEEDED. MINES LOCATED WOULD PRESUMABLY BE RECOVERED OR DETONATED BY EGYPTIAN NAVY DIVERS. ZIKRY UNDERSTAND THAT U.S. NAVY WILL NOT RISK PERSONNEL IN SURFACE OR DIVING OPERATIONS WITHIN THE MINED AREA AND MADE NO REQUEST FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE.

3. EGYPTIAN NAVY IS EVIDENTLY NOT CONFIDENT OF SHIP COUNTER SETTINGS ON MINES AND HAS REQUESTED SWEEPING TO SHIP COUNT 21. THIS WILL EXTEND TIME REQUIRED FOR COMPLETION OF THE OPERATION BY AN AS YET UNDERTIMED FACTOR.

4. SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT REQUESTED BY ZIKRY, AND INSTRUCTION MANUALS THEREFORE, MAY BE CLASSIFIED. IF MATERIAL CAN BE DECLASSIFIED, WOULD DEPARTMENT (MUNITIONS CONTROL) AND DOD BE PREPARED TO LICENSE SUCH A SALE? IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE OR (AS SEEMS LIKELY) CANNOT BE DONE EXPEDITIOUSLY, WOULD DOD BE WILLING, AND WOULD DEPARTMENT SANCTION, LOAN OF THIS EQUIPMENT TO EGYPTIAN NAVY ON A TEMPORARY BASIS? EQUIPMENT WOULD REMAIN UNDER NOMINAL AMERICAN CONTROL. TO DO THE JOB REQUIRED WITHIN TIME FRAME AVAILABLE IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR EQUIPMENT TO ARRIVE HERE WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.

5. PRIOR TO MAKING A DECISION WITH REGARD TO PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT TO EGYPTIAN NAVY, DETERMINATION SHOULD BE MADE BY U.S. NAVY THAT NECESSARY TRAINING OF EGYPTIAN PERSONNEL CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED QUICKLY ENOUGH TO MEET TIME CONSTRAINTS.

GDS 31 DEC 83

EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ORDNANCE, DREDGING, NIMBUS STREAM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO08025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750279-1155
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750854/aaaabvbm.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIMBUS STREAM
TAGS: MILI, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006